

IN THE US PATENT OFFICE

EXAMINER - Forman

FAX RECEIVED

GROUP - 1655

MAR 15 2002

SN - 09/631,609

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FILED - 8/4/00

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

BY - Tanasmi

BY MAIL AND FAX

Sirs:

OFFICIAL

Responsive to the Office Action of 2/5/02, please amend the above as follows:

Claims 31-35, cancel without prejudice

Add claims 36-39, appearing in the appendix attached hereto.

REMARKS

Claims 36-39 are in the application replacing claims 31-34 which were cancelled to expedite prosecution. Claim 35 has also been cancelled to expedite prosecution. The new claims 36-39 have been drafted to avoid the Section 112 objections priorly made by the Examiner vis-a-vis old claims 31 and 32, and also to more clearly define the invention.

There are no new fees due since there are fewer than three main claims, fewer than 20 total claims, and no multiple dependencies.

The Section 103 rejection over Balch 6,083,763 in view of Haff 5,720,923, is respectfully traversed, especially in view of our new claims 36-39. Our invention is now more clearly defined

-1-

I hereby certify that the correspondence upon which this notice is placed is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

MICHAEL J. JIMA, ATTORNEY

DATE:

3/15/02

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